

Southeast Region Implementation Plan Action Items (FY09 and FY10) and Accomplishments (FY08)

*Action Category	Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/08	2009	2010	How Progress Will be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
1	Enhance observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico shrimp trawl fishery.	The Final Rule for Shrimp Amendment 13, which establishes standardized reporting methodology, was published on 9/26/07 and was implemented 10/26/07.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
3	Provide better bycatch estimates for red snapper and other species for the shrimp fishery with respect to season, depth, and location.	A Proposed Rule for a shrimp regulatory amendment to modify the shrimp bycatch protocol criteria allowing NMFS to designate more efficient bycatch reduction devices (BRDs) was published on 10/12/07.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Agency approval of regulatory amendment. Documentation of any work that was done to provide better bycatch estimates.	Agency takes final Action on Regulatory Amendment.	May-09
1	Enhance observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico bottom longline reef fish fishery.	Observer program at baseline level, subject to annual finding.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
1	Enhance observer programs in the South Atlantic shrimp trawl fishery.	Shrimp Amendment 6 (approved) specifies that 20% of annual observer funds will be used to monitor bycatch in the South Atlantic shrimp fishery.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
4	Enhancement of education and outreach efforts. Continue partnership with fishermen and industry groups to research and develop effective bycatch reduction techniques.	Distribution of new BRD designs to Southeast fishers. Developed and distributed instructional materials for new BRD construction.	Continue to distribute new BRD designs to fishers. Stage industry workshops to promote new BRD designs. Work with industry groups to solicit involvement in new BRD development.	Continue to distribute new BRD designs to fishers. Stage industry workshops to promote new BRD designs. Work with industry groups to solicit involvement in new BRD development.	New BRD designs developed in cooperation with industry. Increased use of new BRD design by fishers.	Provide status report on BRD development and industry outreach efforts.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
3	Continue the use of time/area closures for fisheries that have high bycatch of fishes, marine mammals, and sea turtles.	Existing time/area closures were maintained.	Ongoing.	Ongoing.	Maintain bycatch reduction provided by time/area closure.	Documentation of time/area closures.	Sept-09 and Sep 10

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1	Provide better bycatch estimates for red snapper, vermilion snapper, and other reef fishes in the commercial and for-hire reef fish fishery with respect to season, depth, and location.	Reef Fish Amendment 22 (approved) implements a standardized reporting methodology through the development of an observer program for the commercial and for-hire reef fish fishery and use of MRFSS. Reef Fish Amendment 23 applies standardized bycatch reporting methodology to the entire reef fish complex including vermilion snapper.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Documentation of the number of observer sea days and number of intercepts by MRFSS.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
1	Monitor and assess bycatch in the South Atlantic reef fish fishery; minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish.	South Atlantic Snapper Grouper Amendment 15B, which is being developed, would implement interim programs to monitor and assess bycatch in the South Atlantic reef fish fishery until the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP) Release, Discard and Protected Species (Bycatch) Module can be fully funded. It also includes an action to minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish.	Implement Amendment 15B.	Monitor bycatch with available funds. Require use of gear to minimize bycatch of sawfish and turtles.	Approval of Amendment 15B to minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish in the South Atlantic and establish bycatch reporting methodologies.	Implement Amendment.	May-09 Implement Amendment.
3	Reduce bycatch of red porgy and black sea bass in the South Atlantic.	The Final Rule for Reef Fish Amendment 13C was implemented October 23, 2006. The Amendment increased the allowable harvest of red porgy, required a 2" mesh back panel in black sea bass pots, and required black sea bass pots be removed from the water when a quota is met.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Estimate magnitude red porgy and black sea bass bycatch.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
3	Establish Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in South Atlantic to eliminate bycatch in closed deep water areas and protect a portion of deep water fish population from fishing pressure.	South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Amendment 14 is being developed to establish eight MPAs from northern South Carolina to southern Florida.	Implement Amendment 14.	Monitor MPAs with available funds.	Approval of Amendment 14 to establish MPAs in the South Atlantic.	Implement Amendment 14.	Jan-09 approve amendment; Feb-09 implement amendment.
3	Reduce reef fish bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico.	Shrimp Amendment 14 and Reef Fish Amendment 27 to reduce reef fish bycatch in the Gulf of Mexico was published in 2008.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Estimate reef fish bycatch.	Reports of reef fish bycatch.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
3	Reduce bycatch of snapper-grouper species in the South Atlantic.	South Atlantic Snapper-Grouper Amendment 16, which is being developed, would require venting tools and dehooking devices.	Implement Amendment 16.	Monitor bycatch with available funds. Require use of gear to reduce bycatch of snapper-grouper species.	Approval of Amendment 16 to reduce bycatch of snapper-grouper species.	Implement Amendment 16.	Apr-09 approve amendment; May-09 implement amendment.

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4	Minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish in the Gulf of Mexico.	The Final Rule for Reef Fish Amendment 18a published August 9, 2006. The Amendment provides methods to minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish in the reef fish fishery.	Conduct outreach with fishermen on measures to reduce incidental take impacts on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish.	Continue to conduct outreach with fishermen on measures to reduce incidental take impacts on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish.	Monitor the adoption of release gear protocols and the number of vessels carrying and using required gear.	Document compliance with carrying the required gear.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
1	Reduce and monitor bycatch in Caribbean fisheries.	The Caribbean Comprehensive Sustainable Fisheries Act/Essential Fish Habitat Amendment was implemented during 2006.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of the number of observer sea days.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
2	Enhance funding for bycatch studies.	FY07 priorities for the Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) and Cooperative Research Program (CRP) were revised to better reflect research needs for stock assessments and bycatch as identified in the Region's Bycatch Implementation Plan.	Fund new proposals related to bycatch.	Fund new proposals related to bycatch.	Progress will be monitored through the funding and successful completion of bycatch related proposals.	MARFIN and CRP Annual Reports.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
1	Provide better bycatch estimates for protected species for the shark bottom longline fishery with respect to season and location.	Observer program developed and subject to funding.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Monitor bycatch with available funds and with MRFSS.	Information on protected resource bycatch would be made available to assess the overall effects that mortality from this fishery has on protected resource stocks.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds; prepare and disseminate annual bycatch estimates of protected species.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
2	Electronic Video Monitoring Project.	Test electronic video monitoring technology on longline boats in Gulf of Mexico.	N/A	N/A	Final report comparing results from observers and information captured on electronic monitoring system.	Complete sampling and final report.	Completed Oct-08
4	Assess impacts of federally managed fisheries and gear types on Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species.	Completed ESA biological opinion on the Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Shark Bottom Longline Fishery. Drafted biological opinions on the Gulf of Mexico (GOM) Stone Crab and GOM/South Atlantic (SE) Spiny Lobster fisheries. Completed informal consultations on the effects to <i>Acropora</i> critical habitat from the continued authorization of the SA Snapper-Grouper fishery.	Continue to assess impacts of federally managed fisheries actions and gear types on ESA-listed species.	Continue to assess impacts of federally managed fisheries actions and gear types on ESA-listed species.	Complete reinitiating analyses and biological opinions.	Complete necessary ESA biological opinions and re-initiations analyses as necessary.	Sept-09
1	Develop and implement rule to reduce sea turtle bycatch in trawl fisheries.	Working with Northeast Region (NER) and NMFS Headquarters (HQ) to develop Trawl Gear Rule.	The Sea Turtle Strategy Team, Regions, and HQ will draft proposed Trawl Gear Rule for Phase I fisheries.	Publish proposed and final rules for Phase I fisheries and start a similar information gathering and rulemaking process for Phase 2 trawl fisheries.	Publication of the Trawl Gear Rule for Phase I fisheries.	Implementation of Trawl Gear Rule for Phase I fisheries.	Jan-10 for Phase I proposed rule publication, Apr-10 for Phase I final rule publication.

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1	Implement regulations to reduce leatherback sea turtle bycatch.	Working with NER and HQ to develop Trawl Gear Rule that will require the use of a flounder Turtle Excluder Device (TED) capable of releasing leatherback sea turtles and a flynet TED.	Schedule workshops with affected fishers on the use of these TEDs. Incorporate new gear designs into regulations.	Continue workshops and monitor the effectiveness of new requirements.	Completion of Trawl Gear Rule. Monitor compliance with these new TED requirements.	Implementation of Trawl Gear Rule.	Apr-10
2	Research new gear and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of sea turtle species, led by the Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) Pascagoula Lab with observer evaluation from the SEFSC Galveston Lab and guidance from the Southeast Regional Office (SERO).	Developed and tested several TED designs. Draft rule package is being developed that will amend TED regulations to allow new designs and materials for the shrimp and summer flounder fishery.	Continue to research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries by other gear types.	Continue to research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries by other gear types.	Continued evaluation of new gear or gear types and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of sea turtles. Gather feedback from fishermen on the effectiveness of changes.	Draft rule package during 1st half of 2009.	Sep-09 and Sep-10
1	Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on sea turtles.	Notice of Availability has been published and comments have been received by various state agencies. Corrections have been made to the characterizations as appropriate.	Research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in these fisheries. Continue to work on characterization of federal fisheries as needed.	Continue to research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in these fisheries. Continue to work on characterization of federal fisheries as needed. Use information to help determine which gear types/fisheries require further information/observer coverage to understand potential for sea turtle interactions. Use information to determine which gear types/fisheries are to be addressed after the trawl gear issue is addressed.	Update characterizations and rules, as needed, to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries that affect sea turtles. Use information to help determine future course of action on various gear types.	Update fisheries characterization, as needed. Use information to prioritize/plan management actions by gear type.	Ongoing.

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1	Reconvene the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team (BDTRT) to monitor effectiveness of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (BDTRP) and amend the plan as necessary.	Reconvened the BDTRT for a full team meeting in June 2007 to review the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan, monitor its effectiveness, and provide recommendations for future modifications and gear research. The BDTRT was also reconvened via conference call in March 2008 to hear updates on coastal bottlenose dolphin stock structure and mortality estimates.	Reconvene the BDTRT in March 2009 to review progress on the plan; continue monitoring plan's effectiveness; and determine potential plan modifications based on stock structure refinements.	Modify the BDTRP, if necessary, based on take reduction team comments; and continue to monitor the plan's effectiveness.	Monitor fishery takes to assess whether mortality and serious injury of bottlenose dolphins has been reduced to below stock's Potential Biological Removal level within 6 months of implementation of the plan (short term goal) and to insignificant levels approaching a zero rate within 5 years of implementation of the plan (long term goal).	Implement regulatory and non-regulatory components of the plan. Reconvene the team, as required under the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA), to assess the effectiveness and determine need for modification. Amend the BDTRP based on BDTRT recommendations for medium mesh gillnets operating in North Carolina state waters.	Sep-09
4	Provide outreach to commercial fishermen affected by the Bottlenose Dolphin and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plans by: conducting dockside/fish house visits, participating in various meetings, providing outreach to federal and state law enforcement agents, and participating in gear research efforts.	Fishery Liaison provided outreach to commercial fishermen affected by the Bottlenose Dolphin and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plans by: (1) conducting weekly dockside/fish house visits; (2) participating in several meetings with North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia fishermen; (3) participating in several meetings with North Carolina DMF staff and commissioners, as well as related public hearings; (4) providing outreach on numerous occasions to the U.S. Coast Guard and marine patrol in mid-Atlantic states, (5) providing information to fishermen about gear research opportunities; (6) participating in and providing information to fishermen about efforts to enhance the unit to measure fishing effort; (7) providing specific outreach to fishermen regarding MMAP requirements and changes with obtaining certificates; and (8) providing specific outreach to fishermen on necessary weak links.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan and its 2008 amendment, as well as amendments to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and gillnet closures via dockside/site visits, presentations and information provided at Commission and take reduction plan meetings, postings to web sites, participation in gear research, and providing gear research opportunities to fishermen.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan and its 2008 amendment, as well as amendments to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and gillnet closures via dockside/site visits, presentations and information provided at Commission and take reduction plan meetings, postings to web sites, participation in gear research, and providing gear research opportunities to fishermen.	Monitor compliance of fishermen with regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan (spatial and temporal gear operating requirements, requirements to carry observers) and Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan and gillnet closures. Monitor fishery takes to assess whether short and long term bycatch reduction goals for the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan have been met.	Continue to conduct outreach activities that provide fishermen and the public, especially law enforcement agents, pertinent information to help ensure compliance on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Plan, amendments to the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, and gillnet closures.	Sep-09

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1	Implement regulations to reduce pilot whale and Risso's dolphin bycatch.	Established an Atlantic Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team (PLTRT) to develop a draft plan to reduce mortality and serious injury of marine mammals (spec. pilot whales and Risso's dolphins) incidental to the Atlantic pelagic longline fishery. Proposed rule to implement the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan (PLTRP) published in <i>Federal Register</i> on June 24, 2008 (73 FR 35623) and provided a 90-day public comment period, ending on September 22, 2008. One PLTRT meeting was also conducted during the public comment period (73 FR 51446, September 3, 2008).	Publish final rule to implement PLTRP; PLTRT will reconvene to provide updates on stock structure and monitor plan's effectiveness.	Continue monitoring plan's effectiveness and modify as necessary based on team comments.	Monitor fishery takes to assess whether mortality and serious injury of marine mammals has been reduced to insignificant levels approaching a zero rate within 5 years of implementation of the plan.	Publish final rule to implement Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Sep-10
1	Enhance observer coverage in Mid-Atlantic Coastal Gillnet Fishery.	North Carolina (NC) Alternative Platform Observer Program Coordinators established a database of NC commercial fishermen containing 214 entries; continued implementation of the alternative platform observer program and observed 22 commercial fishing vessels that had not been previously observed by the Northeast Fishery Observer Program.	Continue to enhance and augment the NC commercial fishermen database; continue observation of small vessels via the alternative platforms; and continue collaborating with the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program to increase overall observer coverage in seasonal fisheries.	Continue to enhance and augment the NC commercial fishermen database; continue observation of small vessels via the alternative platform; and continue collaborating with the Northeast Fisheries Observer Program to increase overall observer coverage in seasonal fisheries, funding dependent	Completion of bi-weekly reports documenting entries into the NC commercial fishermen database and number of alternative platform observations, as well as annual reports and NOAA Tech Memos.	Implement observer non-regulatory recommendation in the BDTRP	Sep-09
2	Award and conduct research to test various gillnet, pound net, seine, and longline gear modifications to reduce bottlenose dolphin, pilot whale, and Risso's dolphin serious injuries and mortalities.	Cooperated with Sea Grant to review and award two grants to conduct research in both the gillnet and pound net fisheries as recommended by the Bottlenose Dolphin Take Recommendation Team at their June 2007 meeting. Completed previous grants awarded in 2006 to recover marine mammal interaction data from pelagic longline Captain's reports, and to document interactions between pilot whales and the pelagic longline fishery in the Cape Hatteras Special Research Area.	Continue to cooperate with Sea Grant to award grant(s) and continue research on modified gear/fishery operations to reduce bycatch of bottlenose dolphins, pilot whales and Risso's dolphins.	Continue research on fishery operations to reduce bycatch and implement new gear requirements, as appropriate, in coordination with Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team and Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team.	Successful completion of awarded gear research studies; and present information to Bottlenose Dolphin and Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Teams, respectively, to determine feasibility of incorporating gear modifications into plans.	Continue research on new grants issued in 2008 and present relevant gear research information at the March 2009 Bottlenose Dolphin Take Reduction Team meeting.	Sep-09
4	Provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Developed draft Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan and proposed rule. Developed presentations describing draft proposed measures for Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Protected Species Safe Handling, Release, and Identification Workshops required for all HMS shark and swordfish permit holders. Developed and distributed placard with marine mammal identification and safe handling/release guidelines for the pelagic longline fishery.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Monitor fishery takes to assess whether the bycatch reduction goals of the plan have been met.	Continue to provide information to fishermen and public on regulatory and non-regulatory components of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Plan.	Ongoing.

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3	Assess impacts of fisheries and gear types on marine mammal species.	Assessed levels of marine mammal mortalities and serious injuries in all state and Federal commercial fisheries in the Southeast and provided recommendations for revising annual List of Fisheries (LOF) (2007 and 2008) to categorize fisheries according to level of marine mammal bycatch. Responded to comments on proposed changes on both the 2007 and 2008 proposed Lists of Fisheries.	Provide HQ Office of Protected Resources (F/PR) with recommended revisions to LOF; respond to comments on proposed changes. Establish local database of marine mammal mortality/injury reporting forms. Coordinate and standardize stranding, sighting, interaction, and mortality report databases in Protected Resources Division. Establish processes to obtain, enter, store, and conduct appropriate analysis (to gear type/ impact) to use stored data.	Provide F/PR with recommended revisions to LOF; respond to comments on proposed changes. Work with Northeast Regional Office and others to establish tier analysis SOP for all gear-fishery interactions; articulate process for establishing, changing, and dropping fisheries from yearly LOF.	Revised List of Fisheries will be published annually.	Develop and forward to F/PR recommended revisions to 2009 LOF. Databases will be created, standardized, and stored in common access folders. Processes for data management and tier analysis will be captured in written policy documents.	May-09

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3	Issue Marine Mammal Authorization Program (MMAP) certificates to state- and federally permitted fishermen.	Issued 2009 MMAP notification by mail to all state- and federally permitted fishermen in the Southeast.	2009 MMAP Authorization Certificate program transitioned to web with yearly alert, updated LOF, and directions for certificate download sent to fishermen. An MMAP hotline established through new phone/computer interface system to answer all questions and issue certificates by mail as necessary.	Update website with current-year MMAP certificates and outreach information. Establish processes for web monitoring of usage and certificate downloads. Streamline data movement from state to Protected Resources Division databases. Refine database fields for better gear-user match between fishery and MMAP systems.	Monitor compliance with terms and conditions of MMAP authorization (i.e., comply with fishery regulations imposed under specific Take Reduction Plans and requirements to carry observers and report all mortalities and injuries of marine mammals).	Issue MMAP certificates by mail or website. Updated outreach materials available online. Have viable Access database with processes for periodic review and re-integration with states.	Sep-09
4	Inform fishermen and the public about bycatch of protected resources (PR) species and measures in place or being implemented to reduce bycatch.	Provided information regarding bycatch of PR species via MMAP certificate mailings, directed mailings, dockside/site visits, website posting, and presentations and information provided at Council and Commission meetings, and other fora.	Provide information about current bycatch levels, regulations to reduce bycatch, and reporting requirements.	Provide information about current bycatch levels, regulations to reduce bycatch, and reporting requirements.	Monitor compliance of commercial fishermen with regulations regarding bycatch of protected species (Take Reduction Plans, observer programs, reporting requirements).	Provide written and verbal information to fishermen regarding bycatch of PR species and measures being implemented to reduce bycatch.	Sep-09
2	Research new gear and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of sea turtle species, led by Southeast Fisheries Science Center (SEFSC) Pascagoula Lab with observer evaluation from SEFSC Galveston and guidance from the Southeast Regional Office (SERO).	Developed and tested several BRD designs.	Continue to research methods to reduce finfish bycatch in shrimp fishery.	Continue to research methods to reduce finfish bycatch in shrimp fishery.	Continued evaluation of new BRD designs to reduce finfish bycatch.	Developed new BRD design that will be incorporated into Shrimp Amendment 15.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
1	Develop observer programs in the Gulf of Mexico recreational charter vessel fishery.	No observer program developed, subject to annual finding.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Documentation of number of observer days completed with available funds.	Complete as many observer sea days as possible with available funds.	Sept-08 and Sep 09

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4	Minimize the impacts of incidental take on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish in the Gulf of Mexico.	Fisher workshops conducted in 12 Gulf of Mexico and 9 Southeast Atlantic ports. Information and training was provided on safe handling techniques for captured sea turtles including use of de-hooking devices and line cutters. Marine enforcement training on required gear was conducted for the U.S. Coast Guard and state agencies.	Conduct outreach with fishers on measures to reduce incidental take impacts on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. Support fishery dependent studies to investigate sea turtle take mitigation measures on bottom longlines.	Continue to conduct outreach with fishers on measures to reduce incidental take impacts on sea turtles and smalltooth sawfish. Support fishery dependent studies to investigate sea turtle take mitigation measures on bottom longlines.	Monitor the adoption of release gear protocols and the number of vessels carrying and using required gear. Analyze results of mitigation studies to determine whether measures can effectively implemented in the fishery.	Document compliance with carrying the required gear. Provide status report on fishery dependent studies of mitigation measures and implementation feasibility.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
2	Research new gear and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of sea turtle species, led by SEFSC Pascagoula Lab with observer evaluation from SEFSC Galveston and guidance from SERO.	Developed and tested TED designs for shrimp and non-shrimp trawl fisheries. Conducted targeted catch retention assessments of TED-equipped trawls for skimmer trawls and Atlantic sciaenid trawl fishery.	Continue to research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries by other gear types. Complete assessments of target catch retention and TED usability for skimmer trawls and Atlantic sciaenid fishery.	Continue to research methods to reduce sea turtle bycatch in fisheries by other gear types.	Continued evaluation of new gears and fishing methods to reduce bycatch of sea turtles. Implementation of the Trawl Gear Rule.	Developed new TED design that was incorporated into Trawl Gear Rule. Final reports on target catch rates and TED usability for skimmer trawl and Atlantic sciaenid trawl fishery.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
2	Reduce bluefin tuna bycatch mortality in the Gulf of Mexico pelagic longline fishery for yellowfin tuna.	Conducted a fishery dependent assessment of an experimental hook design to release bluefin tuna while retaining targeted yellowfin tuna.	Continue a fishery dependent assessment of an experimental hook design to release bluefin tuna while retaining targeted yellowfin tuna.	Distribute new hook designs throughout fishery and obtain industry feedback on usability and effectiveness.	Analyze results of experiment to determine if measures could be effectively implemented in the fishery. Fisher uptake of experimental hook design as more efficient method for target catch and reduction of bluefin.	Report results of two-year study. Implementation of hook requirement in PLL fishery.	Sept-09 and Sep 10
1	Maintain appropriate observer coverage levels in the pelagic longline (PLL), bottom longline (BLL), and shark gillnet (GN) fisheries.	Target coverage levels met for PLL and shark GN fisheries (on an annual basis). BLL coverage level identified (SEFSC). Implemented enhanced coverage of Gulf of Mexico PLL fishery from April 15 - June 15.	Maintain observer coverage levels for PLL and shark BLL and GN fisheries.	Maintain observer coverage at or above target levels for each fishery.	Identify target observer coverage level by fishery. Document number of vessels, sets, and hooks observed by fishery.	Identification of fishery observer coverage levels. Documentation of observer coverage levels by fishery	Annually.
1	Evaluate mandatory observer coverage for headboats possessing HMS permits.	On hold pending Marine Recreational Information Program process.	Coordinate with NMFS Office of Science and Technology (F/ST) and SEFSC to conduct an analysis to determine scope of coverage, evaluate costs and benefits, and identify alternatives.	Implement new procedures as warranted dependent on available resources.	Identify universe of participating vessels, number of trips per year, target level, and cost of observer coverage.	Incorporate findings and results in Stock Assessment and Fishery Evaluation Report; Implementation of new procedures if warranted.	Dec-08; Jun-09

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1	Increase sample sizes for Large Pelagic Survey in for-hire fisheries.	Survey transferred to F/ST; changes in survey design have led to increased sampling in for-hire fisheries for HMS.	Coordinate with F/ST to continue implementation of new survey design; monitor catch and effort.	Continue to coordinate with F/ST on implementation of new survey design; monitor catch and effort.	Monitor number of interviews/intercepts of for-hire vessels.	Annual report completed.	Annually.
2	Investigate and evaluate alternative fishing protocols and gear modifications to reduce bycatch and bycatch mortality in HMS longline, gillnet, and handline fisheries.	Design and conduct fishing operations in experimental fishery to evaluate effectiveness of circle hooks in closed areas dependent on available funding.	Conduct fishing operations in experimental fishery dependent on available funding.	Conduct analyses of experimental fishery.	Number of experimental sets made.	Results published in a report.	Dec-09
2	Research on post-release mortality of HMS.	No activities identified as yet (dependent on needs and funding availability).	No activities identified as yet (dependent on needs and funding availability).	No activities identified as yet (dependent on needs and funding availability).	Number of pop-up satellite tags (PSATs) deployed.	Results published in a report.	To be determined.
2	Conduct research on bluefin/yellowfin tuna interactions and distribution in the Gulf of Mexico.	New project for FY07 (dependent on funding).	Conduct field research, deploy PSATs on tuna in the Gulf of Mexico (dependent on funding).	Conduct field research, deploy PSATs on tuna in the Gulf of Mexico (dependent on funding).	Number of PSATs deployed.	Results published in a report.	Apr-09
3	Implement final measures of Amendment 1 (Shark Amendment).	Finalized and published final rule for shark de-hooking requirements (2/7/07).	Complete, no additional activities identified.	Analyze impacts (biological, social, and economic) of closure.	Implementation of final rule for de-hooking requirements; Provide preliminary results in annual SAFE Report.	Final rule for de-hooking requirements published and implemented; Publication of results in annual SAFE Report.	Feb-07; Annually.
3	Develop Amendment 2 to address shark management measures including bycatch and overfishing issues.	Proposed rule published 7/19/07.	Draft and publish final rule.	Monitor bycatch with available funds.	Public hearings held, proposed rule published.	Publication of final rule; implementation of new management measures.	May-08
3	Continue analyses of time/area closure effectiveness and investigate new or modified measures as appropriate.	Continued analyses during development of Amendment 2; recommendations included in proposed rule.	Continue to monitor effectiveness of time/area closures.	Continue to monitor effectiveness of time/area closures.	Implementation of final rule; Provide results in annual SAFE Report.	Final rule published in the Federal Register; Publication of results in annual SAFE Report.	May-08; Annually.

Southeast Region Implementation Plan Action Items (FY09 and FY10) and Accomplishments (FY08)

*Action Category	Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/08	2009	2010	How Progress Will be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
3	Evaluate applicability of bycatch reduction measures from the Northeast Distant experimental fishery to other U.S. and international fleets.	Conducted workshops on safe-handling and release guidelines.	Conduct additional workshops on safe-handling and release guidelines.	Conduct additional workshops on safe-handling and release guidelines.	Number of workshops held, percent of permit holders/vessel operators certified.	Results published in a report.	Ongoing activity.
3	Address recommendations of the Pelagic Longline Take Reduction Team (TRT).	Participated in TRT meetings and conference calls.	Participate in TRT meetings and conference calls.	To be determined based on TRT recommendations.	To be determined based on TRT recommendations.	To be determined based on TRT recommendations.	To be determined.
4	Develop safe handling and release techniques brochure.	Complete.	Distribute materials as needed.	Distribute materials as needed.	Brochures, video, and protocols produced.	Materials distributed.	Done.
4	Improve communication with constituents regarding Agency efforts to reduce mortality in HMS fisheries.	Updated HMS website and HMS infoline; instituted HMS listserver and retired fax network.	Maintain HMS website, HMS infoline, and listserver as needed.	Maintain HMS website, HMS infoline, and listserver as needed.	Documents and other information posted to website; updates to infoline and listserver.	Updates completed.	Ongoing activity.
4	Publicize availability of HMS identification guide to fishermen, constituents, and interested parties.	Notice of availability posted on HMS website.	Retain notice of availability posted on HMS website.	No activities identified as yet.	Notice of availability published; notice on HMS website.	Publication of notice; notice on HMS website.	Done.
4	Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines.	Presentation and materials for workshops developed; conducted workshops.	Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines.	Conduct workshops on safe handling and release guidelines.	Number of workshops held, percent of permit holders/vessel operators certified.	Workshops conducted.	Ongoing activity.
4	Prepare materials for tradeshow and conferences for distribution; attend trade shows and conferences; collaboration with the private sector.	Updated HMS fisheries brochures and compliance guide.	Update HMS fisheries brochures and compliance guide as needed.	Update HMS fisheries brochures and compliance guide as needed.	Number of Trade shows and Conferences attended.	Materials distributed.	Ongoing activity.
4	Translate safe handling and release protocols into other languages as specified in the 2004 Biological Opinion.	Distributed Spanish and Vietnamese versions.	N/A	N/A	Materials translated; brochures produced and distributed.	Materials distributed.	Completed 2008.

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*Action Category	Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/08	2009	2010	How Progress Will be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
*Action Category: 1 = Monitoring; 2 = Bycatch reduction, engineering, and other research; 3 = Management (including international efforts); 4 = Education/outreach.							